deploying the shock absorbers from the housing in response to the sensed movement, deploying the shock absorbers comprising:

extending the retractable supports to push the shock absorber away from the housing; and

extending additional retractable supports to push a bumper on the shock absorbers away from a cover portion of the shock absorber to which the bumper is mounted.

12. The method of claim **11** further including retracting the shock absorbers after deploying the shock absorbers.

13. The method of claim **11** wherein sensing the movement of the electronic device comprises determining a duration of the movement.

14. The method of claim **11** further comprising:

providing an activation signal to trigger switches associated with the shock absorbers to deploy the shock absorbers by extending the retractable supports.

15. The method of claim **13** wherein extending the additional retractable supports comprises releasing detents on the cover portion that hold the bumper against the central portion.

16. The method of claim **11** wherein sensing the movement of the electronic device comprises determining a distance of the movement.

17. A portable electronic device, comprising:

a housing;

shock absorbers mounted on rigid supports that slide into and out of the housing;

a sensor within the housing, the sensor configured to detect movement of the housing;

a controller within the housing, the controller configured to determine a triggering event based upon the detected movement of the housing;

an activation mechanism coupled to the shock absorbers for deploying the shock absorbers based upon the triggering event determination.

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